

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03

OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /099 W

-----129190 220911Z /15

P R 220752Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 381

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12770

BRUSSELS (ALSO) FOR USEC

PARIS (ALSO) FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, UNCTAD, JA

SUBJECT: UNCTAD AND DEBT

REF: A) STATE 191800, B) STATE 193089, C) TOKYO 10628

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO AGREE WITH U.S. THAT UNCTAD AUSPICES ARE UNSUITABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL DECISION-MAKING ON HANDLING OF LDC DEBT QUESTION, BUT THEY BELIEVE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO HOLD THE LINE ON UNCTAD INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ISSUE. THEY SAY THEY CAN AGREE TO TAKE OUR LINE ON TACTICS FOR SEPTEMBER TDB OFFICIALS MEETING, BUT THEY URGE CLOSE COORDINATION  
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AND FLEXIBILITY AT MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MADE PRESENTATION BASED ON REFTELS A AND B TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, UN BUREAU ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION CHIEF YAGI AND TANAKA OF SAME DIVISION. YAGI REPEATED JAPANESE POSITION SET FORTH REFTEL C REGARDING UNCTAD INVOLVEMENT IN DEBT ISSUE. HE AGREED IBRD/IMF DEVELOP-

MENT COMMITTEE IS PREFERABLE VENUE FOR LDC DEBT DISCUSSION BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN AT IDEA OF "BEING ISOLATED WITH THE UNITED STATES" AGAINST UNANIMOUS G-77 DEMANDS FOR UNCTAD ROLE IN TREATMENT OF DEBT POLICY ISSUES.

3. TANAKA SAID THAT JAPAN COULD GO WITH US "ON TACTICS" AT OFFICIALS' MEETING. U.S. EFFORT TO "DILUTE" MINISTERIAL AGENDA TO EMPHASIZE OTHER ISSUES THAN DEBT WOULD NEVERTHELESS, HE NOTED, RUN UP AGAINST LDC POSITION THAT BECAUSE MINISTERIAL IS SPECIAL NOT ORDINARY MEETING, AGENDA SHOULD BE NARROWLY FOCUSED RATHER THAN EXTENDED TO COVER VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. HE ADDED THAT PARTIAL SUCCESS IN KEEPING OUR PROPOSED SUBJECTS ON AGENDA WOULD PROBABLY BE NO BETTER THAN FAILURE BECAUSE DEBT QUESTION WOULD DOMINATE SHORTENED AGENDA NO MATTER WHAT ELSE WAS ON IT.

4. JAPANESE SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF TURNING ASIDE OCTOBER EXPERTS' MEETING ON DEBT. JOINT IMF/IBRD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING IN LATE SEPTEMBER, YAGI SAID, WILL LEAVE ROOM FOR REVIEW BY UNCTAD DEBT EXPERTS. YAGI AND TANAKA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT MEETING SCHEDULE MAY DEPEND ON MINISTERIAL AGENDA PRODUCED BY SEPTEMBER TDB OFFICIALS' MEETING. IF AGENDA IS WIDE-RANGING, DEBT EXPERTS' MEETING MIGHT BECOME UNNECESSARY. CONFIDENTIAL

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ON THE OTHER HAND, IF DEBT EXPERTS' MEETING IS HELD IN OCTOBER AS PLANNED, PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE DIM. YAGI AND TANAKA WERE LUKEWARM TO IDEA OF DECEMBER MEETING, SEEMING TO CONSIDER THIS UNNECESSARY WHETHER OR NOT OCTOBER MEETING IS HELD.

5. DATES OF MINISTERIAL ARE ACCEPTABLE ALTHOUGH NOT IDEAL FOR JAPANESE, AND THEY AGREE THAT TWO OR THREE DAYS WOULD BE AMPLE.

6. TANAKA NOTED DIFFICULTY OF AVOIDING COMPROMISE WITHIN EC ON ANY NORTH-SOUTH ISSUE (BY IMPLICATION INCLUDING LDC DEBT), WITH FRG DELEGATES AT THE RESISTANT EDGE AND DUTCH AT THE YIELDING EDGE OF A WIDE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. YAGI AND TANAKA BOTH EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF "KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH" AND OF "FLEXIBILITY" DURING TDB OFFICIALS' MEETING. TANAKA REPEATED ACCOUNT REPORTED REF C OF INCIDENT AT SIXTEENTH REGULAR TDB MEETING WHEN, HE CLAIMED, U.S. UNEXPECTEDLY AND WITHOUT NOTICE TO JAPANESE HAD ALTERED ITS POSITION RE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESO-

LUTION 149 IN ORDER TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING TOWARD  
LDCS.

7. EMBOFF ALSO DISCUSSED TDB OFFICIALS' MEETING WITH  
FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WHO LARGELY CONFINED THEIR  
REACTION TO NOTING THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO LIMIT LDC  
DEBT DISCUSSIONS TO ONE FORUM. THEY AGREED THAT THE  
IMF/IBRD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IS BETTER FITTED TO  
SERVE THIS PURPOSE THAN A GROUP UNDER UNCTAD AUSPICES  
WOULD BE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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